disinvestment) had estimated the incremental investment of Rs. 80 crores on replacement of obsolete plant and machinery and (2) immediately after disinvestment the new management had to start pumping in funds, which on date amount to Rs. 29 crores (in addition to the Rs. 20 crore equity) towards modernization and capital expenditure, repairs of plant, equipment and buildings, replacing baking tins, product and market development, trade support and brand building, repayment of high interest loans, Government loans, payments to suppliers, interim relief to employees working capital requirements, VRS payments towards restructuring/reduction of fixed overhead costs and for meeting other operational expenditure.

Disinvestment of Air India

780. DR. KARAN SINGH:
SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM:

Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since decided the question of disinvestment in respect of Air India;

(b) if so, for how long the matter has been pending indicating the steps, so far, taken in this regard;

(c) whether a number of bidders have withdrawn from the race in respect of their bids on account of delay in decision; and

(d) how this deferment and delay are likely to hit the prospects of striking the best deal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) and (b) The process of disinvestment in respect of Air India, which was initiated through an advertisement inviting Expressions of Interest in October, 2000, has been going on according to the pre-determined transparent procedure followed by Government in all disinvestment transactions and is now at an advanced stage of finalisation of Shareholders/ Sharepurchase Agreements. Once these are finalised, price bids would be called.

(c) No, Sir. Some bidders have withdrawn for their own internal reasons.

(d) Question does not arise, as there has been no deferment or delay on the part of the Government.

Re-bidding for the disinvestment of Air India

781. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are contemplating going in for a re-bid for the disinvestment process of Air India; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this considering that there were over five bidders in the initial phase of the disinvestment process?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise in view of answer at (a) above.

Unfair practices by Sterlite Industry in the capital market

782. SHRI NILOTPAL BASU: Will the Minister of DISINVESTMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that SEBI has charged Sterlite Industry of insider trading in the Capital Market; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to revise their opinion formed on the basis of certificate they had issued to the promoters in course of the BALCO privatisation and reverse the take over of BALCO by Sterlite Industry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) In its order dated 19.4.2001 under Section 11 and 11B of the SEBI Act, 1992, SEBI has indicted Sterlite Industry Ltd. on charges of indulging in price and market manipulation in the scrip of Sterlite.

(b) Government has not issued any certificate to the Sterlite